

**From:** William B. Karesh <karesh@ecohealthalliance.org>  
**To:** Brian Bird <bhbird@ucdavis.edu>  
**CC:** Jon Epstein <epstein@ecohealthalliance.org>; Jonna Mazet <jkmazet@ucdavis.edu>  
**Sent:** 4/4/2017 10:54:32 AM  
**Subject:** Re: FAO update for EHP countries

Sounds like a plan Brian.

In the meantime, the USAID Mission in Liberia sent some questions in response to the planning document and that included questions about overlap with FAO activities. We will put a sentence in a response to the effect that we are in discussions now regarding FAO's new ideas and will modify our plans as needed to accommodate their participation if it occurs.

BK

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On Apr 4, 2017, at 1:13 PM, Brian Bird <[bhbird@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bhbird@ucdavis.edu)> wrote:

Thanks Billy for the update.

Incorporating the local livestock folks into sampling in Liberia and Guinea where things are behind on livestock sampling makes quite a bit of sense to me based on our discussions with them while we were there. Certainly, the Liberians were quite eager to get involved.

Not sure about Sierra Leone where we have a fairly large collection of livestock already, and since this brings up the larger point we started to discuss on the last EHP call about the need and scientific justification for continued heavy livestock sampling.

Overall, now that we are getting quite far in time since the last active human cases is it worth the effort and resources to keep pushing so hard on livestock? On the flip side, they do help though tremendously in meeting the overall 54k animal deliverable, but are probably less and less important for specific ebolavirus surveillance as time goes on. Depending on funds available for testing for the other 4 priority virus families they may still have utility regardless of the ebola focus.

The main questions in my mind are:

- 1) When/if to ramp down the livestock (at some date in future, or at some target number by species, or at some number of sampled sites, etc?) Then if these livestock efforts ramp down we focus the sampling teams on the other taxa.
- 2) Can we afford the broader suite of PREDICT virus family testing – which helps justify continued heavy sampling
- 3) How to incorporate FAO to cover some of the sampling/lab training expenses for the government partners?

These are just my thoughts so let's try to come to a consensus. I'll add these at the top of the agenda (FAO and the need/justification for ongoing livestock work) for the next EHP call which is slated for next week (Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am pacific -2 pm eastern which was the best overall time for folks; reminder/agenda coming soon) and we can discuss how best to proceed.

Happy to discuss further by email or a smaller call in the meantime though, if next week isn't soon enough.

-brian

**From:** "William B. Karesh, D.V.M" <[karesh@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:karesh@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Date:** Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 9:33 AM

**To:** Brian Bird <[bhbird@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bhbird@ucdavis.edu)>

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**Subject:** FAO update for EHP countries

Hi everyone,

I just spoke with Subhash Morzaria from FAO regarding their current plans or thinking for Guinea, SL and Liberia. He was just visiting SL and met with FAO and USAID while he was there. He has not yet gone to Guinea or Liberia.

For all three countries: FAO can pay for local government livestock people to collect samples from livestock as a training activity under their new GHSA guidance, but do not have budget for testing for Filoviruses or the other viral families. They will make the samples available to PREDICT for testing. At the point when we are ready to train local labs to conduct testing, they can also pay for the livestock services lab people to participate in our lab training.

Timing: They are ready in Sierra Leone to begin this in the next month or two. For Guinea and Liberia, it will take a bit longer, maybe within the next 6 months.

I told Subhash that 1) we need to check to see if we can accommodate the additional testing (shipping and testing, getting permits, etc.) so local partners have the correct expectations, 2) check to see where we are with livestock samples in the different countries to meet our deliverables, and 3) that we need to make sure the local USAID missions are clear and okay with who is doing what to avoid confusion if work plans change. I suggest we get ahead of this on point number 3 just to avoid any confusion, but that may require deciding on points 1 & 2 unless people think it is okay to let Missions know now that we are in discussions with FAO about their possible contributions.

Brian, can you get the group organized on this?

Thanks,

Billy

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